

**Remarks**

Claims 1-12 and 31-36 are currently at issue in the present application. Claims 13-30 and 37-46 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicant notes, with thanks, the allowance of claims 31-36.

Applicant amends claim 3 to correct the typographical error.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-12 based on the Gutowska reference under §§ 102(a) or (b).

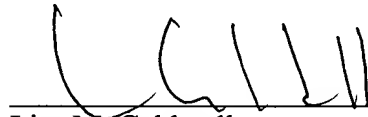
The Gutowska reference was published after June 6, 1996, and thus is not § 102(b) art. Applicant submits a substitute 1449 to indicate the publication month of this reference. The Gutowska reference is not § 102(a) at least because the reference neither teaches nor suggest a reversible gelling copolymer including a "therapeutic agent" mixed therewith as recited by the amended claims 1-12. Claim 1 has been amended to explicitly exclude insulin and glucose.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa M. Caldwell  
Registration No. 41,653

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600  
121 S.W. Salmon Street  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Telephone: (503) 226-7391  
Facsimile: (503) 228-9446

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	23-65304
				<b>Application Number</b>	09/209,541
				<b>Filing Date</b>	December 11, 1998
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Anna Gutowska
				<b>Art Unit</b>	1711
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	Jeffrey C. Mullis
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
<b>Examiner's Initials*</b>	<b>Cite No. (optional)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	
		5,000,955	3/1991	Gould et al.	
		5,053,228	10/1991	Mori et al.	
		5,124,151	6/1992	Viegas et al.	
		5,226,902	7/1993	Bae et al.	
		5,252,318	10/1993	Joshi et al.	
		5,290,494	3/1994	Coombes et al.	
		5,292,517	3/1994	Chang	
		5,484,610	1/1996	Bae	
		5,631,337	5/1997	Sassi et al.	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
<b>Examiner's Initials*</b>	<b>Cite No. (optional)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Country</b>	
<b>Examiner's Initials*</b>	<b>Cite No. (optional)</b>	<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b>			
		PH SENSITIVE HYDROGELS BASED ON THERMALLY REVERSIBLE GELS FOR ENTERIC DRUG DELIVERY, LC Dong, AS Hoffman, P Sadumi, Proceed. Intern. Symp. Control. Rel. Vioac. M., 18, (1989), Controlled Release Society.			

<b>EXAMINER SIGNATURE:</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED:</b>
* Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through cite if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	



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		LOWER CRITICAL SOLUTION TEMPERATURES OF AQUEOUS COPOLYMERS OF N-ISOPROPYLACRYLAMIDE AND OTHER N-SUBSTITUTED ACRYLAMIDES, JH Priest, SI Murray, RJ Nelson, AS Hoffman, Reversible Polymeric Gels and Related Systems, Chapter 18, American Chemical Society, 1987.	
		DEVELOPMENT IF INJECTABLE SUSTAINED-RELEASE GELS FOR SITE-SPECIFIC TREATMENT OF SOLID TUMORS AND <i>CONDYLOMATA ACUMINATA</i> , R Jones, 6th Int. Symp. on Recent Advances in Drug Delivery Systems, Feb. 22-25, 1193, SLC, UT.	
		GRAFT COPOLYMERS THAT EXHIBIT TEMPERATURE-INDUCED PHASE TRANSITIONS OVER A WIDE RANGE OF PH, G Chen, AS Hoffman, Letters to Nature, Nature Vol. 373, 5 Jan. 1995.	
		INVERSE THERMALLY-REVERSIBLE GELATION OF AQUEOUS N-ISOPROPYLACRYLAMIDE COPOLYMER SOLUTIONS, CK Han, YH Bae, Polymer, Vol. 39, No. 13, pp. 2809-2814, 1998.	
		THERMALLY REVERSIBLE POLYMER GELS FOR BIOHYBRID ARTIFICIAL PANCREAS, B Vernon, Macromol. Symp., Vol. 9, pp. 155-167, Jun. 1996.	

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